

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problems Mailbox.**

#15/Election
6-4-03
2005
JH

9D-HR-19109
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masker et al. :
: Art Unit: 3634
Serial No.: 09/480,345 :
: Examiner: Harris, Erica
Filed: January 10, 2000 :
:
For: SPILLPROOF REFRIGERATOR :
SHELF :

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Office Action dated May 6, 2003, Applicant elects for prosecution in this application all claims that belong to Group II, i.e., Claims 6-20.

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement imposed under 35 U.S.C. §121 is respectfully requested.

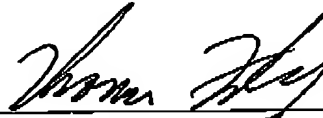
A restriction to either Invention I, consisting of Claims 1 and 3-5 drawn to a method of making assembling a shelf, classified in class 428, subclass 2 or Invention II, consisting of Claims 6-20, drawn to a apparatus/method for rinsing, classified in class 211, subclass 153, was imposed. In response, Applicant elects with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group II, Claims 6-20.

The requirement for election is traversed because the inventions set out by the claims in Groups I and II are clearly related. Applicants submit that a thorough search and examination of

9D-HR-19109
PATENT

any one Group would be relevant to the examination of the other Group and would not be a burden on the Examiner. Additionally, requirements for election are not mandatory under 35 U.S.C. §121. Accordingly, reconsideration of the election requirement is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas M. Fisher
Registration No. 47,564
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070

ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP

One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600

St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740

Phone: (314) 621-5070

Fax: (314) 621-5065

www.armstrongteasdale.com

Date: June 2, 2003

Please Deliver To:**Name: Examiner Erica Harris****Firm: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office****Tel: (703) 306-9071****Fax: (703) 872-9326****From: Thomas M. Fisher**: Serial Number: **09/480,345**: Docket: **9D-HR-19109**: **PAPERS TRANSMITTED:**

: Amendment Transmittal (3 pgs.)

: Response to Restriction Requirement of 5/6/03

: (2 pages)

: Fax Transmittal

Total pages including cover page: 6**If all pages are not received, please contact Mandy Robinson at (314) 621-5070, ext. 7447****CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Facsimile Number 1-703-872-9326 on the date shown below.

Date: June 2, 2003
Thomas M. Fisher

Registration No. 47,564

Applicant: Masker et al.**Serial No.: 09/480,345****Filed: January 10, 2000****Art Unit: 3634****Examiner: Harris, Erica****Atty. Dkt. No.: 9D-HR-19109 (13307-59)****For: SPILLPROOF REFRIGERATOR SHELF****FAX RECEIVED**

JUN 03 2003

GROUP 3600**Official**

The information contained in this facsimile message is information protected by attorney-client and/or the attorney/work product privilege. It is intended only for the use of the individual named above and the privileges are not waived by virtue of this having been sent by facsimile. If the person actually receiving this facsimile or any other reader of the facsimile is not the named recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the named recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution, or copying of the communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by telephone and return the original message to us at the above address via U.S. Postal Service.

***IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES, PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY AT (314) 621-5070.**

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 9D-HR-19109

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masker et al.
Serial No.: 09/480,345
Filed: January 10, 2000
For: SPILLPROOF
REFRIGERATOR SHELF

Group No.: 3634
Examiner: Harris, Erica

Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL

- Transmitted herewith is:
Response to Restriction Requirement of May 6, 2003 (2 pages)
Transmittal for Restriction Requirement (3 pages)
Fax Cover Sheet (1 page)

STATUS

- Applicant
☒ claims small entity status.
☐ is other than a small entity.


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

MAILING
deposited with the United States Postal Service
Express Mail Label No. addressed to the
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria,
VA 22313-1450

Date: _____

FACSIMILE
☒ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and
Trademark Office


Thomas M. Fisher
Reg No. 47,564

EXTENSION OF TERM

3. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply.

(complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

- (a) _____ Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136
(Fees: 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)-(d) for the total number of months checked below:)

Extension for response within:	Other than small entity Fee	Small entity Fee (if applicable)
_____ first month	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00
_____ second month	\$ 410.00	\$ 205.00
_____ third month	\$ 930.00	\$ 465.00
_____ fourth month	\$1,450.00	\$ 725.00
_____ fifth month	\$1,970.00	\$ 985.00

Fee: \$ _____

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

(Check and complete the next item, if applicable)

_____ An extension of _____ months has already been secured. The fee paid therefor \$ _____ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request \$ _____.

OR

- (b) ☒ Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time.

FEE FOR CLAIMS

4. The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	(Col. 2) HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Col. 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL RATE FEE	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL RATE FEE
TOTAL	MINUS	=		x \$9 = \$		x \$18 = \$
INDEP.	MINUS	=		x \$42 = \$		x \$84 = \$
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM				+ \$140 = \$		+ \$280 = \$
				TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE \$	OR	TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE \$

(a) X No additional fee for Claims is required

OR

(b) _____ Total additional fee for claims required \$ _____

FEE PAYMENT

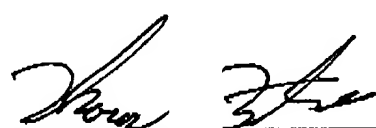
5. _____ Attached is a check in the sum of \$ _____
 _____ Charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384 the sum of \$ _____.
 A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

FEE DEFICIENCY

6. ✓ If any additional extension and/or fee is required, charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384.

AND/OR

- ✓ If any additional fee for claims is required, charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384.
7. _____ Other:


 Thomas M. Fisher
 Reg. No. 47,564
 ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
 One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
 St. Louis, MO 63102
 314/621-5070